



SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
3:00 p.m.
Meyer Alumni Center Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Cindy Stephens, Duane Lavery, Todd Wiesehan, Steve Childers, Allen Kunkel, Wayne Blades, Jerry Harman and Chris Coulter
Staff: Jason Ray, Jane Hood, and Courtney Pinkham

Open Meeting – Cindy Stephens

1. **Approval of March 12, 2024, Agenda** - Cindy Stephens

Jason asked to remove Item 4 & 7 from the agenda.

Motion made by Chris Coulter and seconded by Todd Wiesehan to approve the March 12, 2024, Amended Agenda. Motion carried.

2. **Approval of January 9, 2024, Minutes** – Cindy Stephens

Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Jerry Harman to approve the January 9, 2024, Minutes. Motion carried.

3. **Approval of February 22, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes** – Cindy Stephens

Jerry Harman asked to amend the minutes to show he was in attendance at the zoom special meeting.

Motion made by Allen Kunkel and seconded by Wayne Blades to approve the February 22, 2024, Amended Minutes. Motion carried.

4. **Approve Marionville RTP Grant Administration Contract** – Included in the meeting packet. Jason Ray

Motion made by Duane Lavery and seconded by Allen Kunkel to approve the Marionville RTP Grant Administration Contract. Motion carried.

5. **Approval Indian Point Comprehensive Plan Contract** – Jason Ray

Contract amount would be \$20,000 to the Village. We have also received an award from CDBG to do stormwater management planning. We are offsetting the cost to the Village by using CDBG, EDA, & MoDOT funds. Request to give Jason Ray the ability to authorize the contract.

Motion made by Wayne Blades and seconded by Jerry Harman to authorize Jason Ray to Approve Indian Point Comprehensive Plan Contract. Motion carried.

6. 2024 Membership Update – Included in the meeting packet. Jason Ray

Jason Ray stated that SMCOG has had good dues participation this year. Only 7 cities have not paid yet. Pleasant Hope sent a letter stating they would not be renewing their membership. They have lost a major employer and sales tax has gone down. All counties have paid. Total local dues are \$104,400 and our goal was \$100,000.

7. Program/Project Updates – Included in the meeting packet. Jason Ray

-We have changed to printed checks.

-We have hired a new Grants Administrator, Garrett Colony, who begins work on March 18th. He previously worked for a large COG in Texas. Position funded by CDBG Capacity Building Grant.

-We will be opening a Grants and Environmental Manager position, which Kelsi will most likely apply for.

-Jason did adjust equity pay raise for our planners. This was due to the city of Springfield's starting wage being so much higher. MSU gave a \$1500 retention bonus to all MSU full time employees.

-SMCOG will be relocating to Blunt Hall, to the old Dean's suite, this December. We have not seen the final floor plans; Jason has tried to get additional details but has not been able to get an answer.

-604b Project proposals should be announced soon. We have wrapped up the close-out for Seymour and Marshfield 604b. We have a 604b for Battlefield, after the RFP we selected Toth. March 28th is the kick-off date for JRBP's 604b.

-Continue working on comp plans for Walnut Grove, Ash Grove & Fair Grove along with Pierce City. Fordland plans have been adopted. Diggins & Seymour wrapping up. Forsyth was interested in a comp plan. We submitted a proposal that they rejected, but looks like the council is re-voting. We have submitted a proposal to the Village of Saddlebrook and the City of Buffalo. Other interested communities are Mt. Vernon, Marionville, Clever, Fair Play, Fremont Hills, and Highlandville.

-TAP applications just opened. Due April 21st.

-Dade County had a workshop on 1/16/2024, with technical assistance from NADO helping with their 2nd Annual FrankenRide.

-Transportation Needs surveys have been mailed. County annual transportation prioritization meetings will happen in May and June.

-Title 6 nondiscrimination plan has gone out for public comment. We only received one comment, regarding the German translation that was included in the plan.

-CDBG projects in Branson are ongoing.

-Crane demolition project is ready for closeout, pending a signed contract for the asbestos abatement, but the company has since closed.

-Billings LWCF Park project should be wrapping up.

-Working on LMI studies for Boliver, Pierce City, Taneyville, and Humansville to qualify for CDBG projects.

-EDA-Partnership Planning Grant submitted in February, once this is restored, we will continue with CEDS update.

-Missouri Technology Corporation Regional Node Planning Grant project with Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Staff has reviewed almost 40 plans and is using the data for recommendations.

- Jason met with Silver Dollar City on some of their expansion plans. Looking into EDA funds.
- City of Strafford has a trucking headquarters expansion project that we are consulting on.
- Missouri Prime Beef in Polk County has reached out regarding wastewater issues.
- Krissy is working on how to closeout the 1st RLF loan that was approved.
- Federal Highway reached out regarding our Safe Streets and Routes for All, and we are negotiating our grant agreement.
- CDBG Mitigation awards- we have received funding for 5 out of 6 applications. Branson Comp Plan, we will be hiring a consultant for the public engagement side. Indian Point stormwater management plan, Bull Creek stormwater management plan, Aurora an emergency operations plan, and then funding for a 2nd grants administrator.
- We did submit a proposal for the OHRD, 5-county area.

9. Other Business

Cindy Stephens mentioned that the International Institute of Springfield, which helps with legal refugees, has stated that they are expecting 300 new refugees in the next 12 months. This could affect SMCOG's need to translate documents into additional languages.

Jason Ray stated that MSU has translation services.

10. Adjourn